

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 CIEP-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
DHA-02 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 /123 W
-----182027 099584 /50

R 181910Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASH DC 823
INFO: RUQMKG/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 1648
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USINT BAGHDAD
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LONDON 2942

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: FPRO, EEC, XF
SUBJ: FCO ACCOUNTS OF EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE AT TUNIS

REF: A) TUNIS 1054; B) TUNIS 1110; C) USEC BRUSSELS
1435

SUMMARY: FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF FCO PARTICIPANTS, THE
EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE WENT RELATIVELY WELL FOR THE
EUROPEAN SIDE. THE ARABS AS EXPECTED CONTINUED TO
TRY TO INJECT A GREATER POLITICAL CONTENT INTO THE
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DOCUMENTATION CONCERNING THE ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE.
THE EUROPEANS, HOWEVER, REFUSED TO GO BEYOND
COMMITMENTS ALREADY ENUNCIATED AS COMMON POSITIONS
BY THE EC. END SUMMARY.

1. FCO OFFICERS WHO ACCOMPANIED FABER HAVE BRIEFED
US ON EURO-ARAB MEETING, SUPPLEMENTING REPORTS

FROM EMBASSY TUNIS (REFS A AND B) AND USEC BRUSSELS
(REF C).

2. THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF THE DIALOGUE AT THIS MEETING WAS MUCH FRIENDLIER THAN IT HAD BEEN AT LUXEMBOURG OR AT THE EARLIER MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS. THERE WAS NO CRISIS. KHELIL WAS VERY ANXIOUS TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF THE MEETING, AND WAS ABLE TO BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IN THIS RESPECT BECAUSE HE WAS THE FIRST ARAB CO-CHAIRMAN WHO UNDERSTOOD WHAT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CAN AND CANNOT DO IN THESE MEETINGS. THUS, THE EUROPEANS WERE NOT PRESSED AS HARD ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE AS THEY HAD BEEN AT LUXEMBOURG. HOWEVER, AS PART OF AN ATTEMPT TO PICK OVER POSITIONS TAKEN IN THE PAST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE NINE, THE ARABS TOOK THE BRITISH TO TASK FOR THE RESTRICTIVE LANGUAGE IN THE BRITISH POLICY STATEMENT ON PALESTININANS DELIVERED BY UKUN AT THE UNGA LAST OCTOBER 5 (TEXT IN 76 LONDON 16139). THE ARABS COMPLAINED ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE SENTENCE "ONE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN A SETTLEMENT WILL BE A LAND FOR THE PALESTINIANS" WAS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY THE PHRASE "NOT NECESSARILY A SOVEREIGN STATE." IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY EC DECLARATION, FABER RESPONDED THAT "IN THE DIALOGUE WE CAN ONLY TAKE ACCOUNT OF POSITIONS ADOPTED BY THE NINE AS SUCH," AND IN CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE ARABS THE BRITISH DELEGATES DEFENDED THE BRITISH UNGA STATEMENT.

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3. THE ARABS IN OPENING DECLARATION ALSO REFERRED TO THE PRESS BRIEFING CONDUCTED BY CROSLAND AFTER THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING JANUARY 31, IN WHICH HE SAID THAT THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT ARE NOT PROPERLY WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE DIALOGUE (LONDON 1800). THE ARABS ASKED IF THIS MEANT THAT THE EC WAS RENEGING ON ITS COMMITMENT TO EXCHANGE POLITICAL VIEWS AT THE DIALOGUE. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO FCO OFFICER BLATHERWICK, FABER'S SUPPLEMENTARY DECLARATION CLEARED THIS UP TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT THE ARABS WERE SOOTHED.

4. DURING THE CONFERENCE, ACCORDING TO BLATHERWICK, THE ARABS PUT FORWARD SEVERAL PROPOSALS FOR POLITICAL ACTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PALESTINIANS, INCLUDING EC RECOGNITION OF THE PLO, AND A COMMITMENT BY THE EC TO TAKE PRACTICAL MEASURES ABOUT THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF ARAB TERRITORIES AND IN

SUPPORT OF PRINCIPLES ENUNCIATED BY THE EC. THE EC WOULD AGREE ONLY TO EXPRESS ITS "CONCERN OVER THE CONTINUED ISRAELI OCCUPATION" IN PARA 9 OF THE COMMUNIQUE. DURING THE MEETINGS OF THE RESTRICTED COMMUNIQUE DRAFTING GROUP, CONSISTING OF FOUR OR FIVE EC REPS AND A DOZEN ARAB REPS, PLO REPRESENTATIVE DAJANI IN PARTICULAR CRITICIZED THE EC MEMBERS FOR

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 824
INFO: RUQMKG/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 1649
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THEIR STATEMENTS ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE AND NON-RECOGNITION OF THE PLO. THE EC SPOKESMEN REITERATED THEY COULD NOT COMMENT ON POLITICAL MATTERS ON WHICH THE EC DID NOT HAVE A COMMON POSITION.

5. MAIN DIFFICULTIES FOR THE EUROPEANS IN DRAFTING THE COMMUNIQUE, SAID BLATHERWICK, WERE THE ARAB

ATTEMPTS TO PERSUADE THE EC TO STRENGTHEN THE
LANGUAGE ON PALESTINIAN RIGHTS IN PARA 8 AND ON THE
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ISRAELI OCCUPATION SO AS TO CHARACTERIZE IT AS A
THREAT TO PEACE. CONTENTIOUS ITEMS IN WHICH THE EC
COULD NOT ACCEPT ARAB LANGUAGE WERE RESOLVED BY
STATEMENTS LED BY PHRASES SUCH AS "THE EUROPEAN
SIDE EXPRESSED." LANGUAGE FOLLOWING THE PHRASE
"BOTH SIDES AGREED" HAD BEEN "WATERED."

6. BLATHERWICK CONFIRMED THAT THE IRAQUIS HELD UP
THE ISSUANCE OF THE COMMUNIQUE ALL NIGHT (REF B).
THE EGYPTIANS AND EUROPEANS HAD AGREED TO THE PHRASE
"STRESSED THE NEED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PRESENT
FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE TO LAUNCH NEW EFFORTS TO REACH
A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT." THE IRAQUIS THEN OBJECTED,
AND THE ARAB MEMBERS OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE
THEREUPON WITHDREW TO ANOTHER ROOM, WHENCE THE
EUROPEAN DRAFTERS COULD HEAR THEM "YELLING ALL
NIGHT."

7. WE UNDERSTAND THE TEXTS OF THE OPENING AND
SUPPLEMENTARY DECLARATIONS HAVE BEEN POUCHED BY
EMBASSY TUNIS AND/OR USEC BRUSSELS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
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Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TUNIS 1054, 77 TUNIS 1110
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3282934
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FCO ACCOUNTS OF EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE AT TUNIS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, EEC
To: STATE AMMAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e29f7cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009